



HIKING - FOREST SERVICE - ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: May, 2003

CRATER LAKE TRAIL #623 Length: 5.5 miles (8.8 km) Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: More difficult

USGS Map (s): Snowdon Peak

Starting Elevation: 10,800'

Andrews Lake Trailhead

Ending Elevation: 11,600'

Crater Lake

Recommended Season: Spring/Summer/Fall

12000						
11500						
11000						
10500						
10000						
Feet	1	2	3	4	5	6
Miles						

Access #1: About 45 miles north of Durango on US 550, take the Andrews Lake turn-off. This dirt road is 1/2 mile north of the Lime Creek rest stop, on the eastern side of US 550. The turn-off road is roughly one mile long and terminates at Andrews Lake, where there is fishing and plenty of parking. Restrooms are also available here. The trail leads off from the southern end of the lake. Please park in the upper parking lot.

Attractions & Considerations: The Crater Lake Trail is an excellent long day hike or an overnight trip. The lake itself is nestled in a basin at the base of Twilight Peak, making the peak readily accessible. Snowdon Peak is also accessible from the Crater Lake Trail. Climbing either of these peaks affords a spectacular, panoramic view, including the Needles, the Grenadiers, and the distant town of Silverton. The beginning section of the trail switchbacks up a 500-ft. rise, but once that has been ascended, the rest of the trail proceeds gently through alternating heavy timber and open meadows. Toward the end of the trail, one will encounter several marshy ponds and the trail becomes somewhat indistinct, but with a keen eye, the trail is discernible.

Fishing Considerations: Crater Lake offers fly and spin-casting fishing. It is rated fair for cutthroat trout. Please check the fishing regulations regarding limits, allowable lures, and restrictions on certain lakes, rivers, etc.

Weminuche Wilderness Regulations:

- Group size is limited to 15 people.
- Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source (approximately 35 adult steps).
- Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land.
- Possession of motorized equipment and mechanized means of transport are not permitted.
- Recreational livestock are prohibited from being restrained within 100 feet of lakeshores and streams or within riparian areas.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service Maps and other publications are available at the Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, 1/2 mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874.

www.sjma.org

